

Message Text

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14
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

OMB-01 EB-07 /088 W
----- 048175

P 301355Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6109

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 4140

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KU
SUBJ: TEXTS OF KUWAITI DOCUMENTS: RESIGNATION OF PRIME
MINISTER; ADDRESS BY AMIR; AND DECREES ORDERING
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, AND AMENDING PRESS LAW

REF: (A) KUWAIT 4127, (B) KUWAIT 4022

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS OF SUBSTANCE OF
SUBJECT GOK DOCUMENTS, ALL DATED AUGUST 29, 1976, TO WHICH
RADIO REPORTS MENTIONED REF A REFERRED.
A. LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO AMIR FROM PRIME MINISTER:
QUOTE: AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 4TH LEGISLATIVE TERM,
YOUR HIGHNESS KINDLY ENTRUSTED ME ANEW WITH THE PREMIERSHIP
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND CHARGED ME WITH FORMING THE
NEW CABINET. DESPITE MY FEELING OF THE HEAVINESS OF THE
TASK CAST UPON MY SHOULDERS AND THE SHOULDERS OF MY
COLLEAGUES, AND MY FEELING THAT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD NO LONGER PROMISE THE POSSIBILITY
OF SERIOUS AND FRUITFUL WORK, I, FOR THE SAKE OF SERVING
THE PEOPLE AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH YOUR HIGHNESS' WISH,
ACCEPTED THAT TASK AND FORMED THE CABINET. UNFORTUNATELY,
HOWEVER, AFTER LESS THAN TWO YEARS FROM THE FORMATION OF
THE CABINET, IT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME AND MY COLLEAGUES
THE MINISTERS TO CARRY ON OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVE
WITH WHICH YOU ENTRUSTED US, FOR MANY REASONS AMONG WHICH WAS
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THE FAILURE TO CONSIDER DRAFT LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING

AT THE ASSEMBLY FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, MOST OF WHICH DID NOT SEE THE LIGHT DESPITE THEIR VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CITIZENS. MOST OF THE SESSIONS HELD BY THE ASSEMBLY HAVE BEEN USELESSLY WASTED, AND ATTACKS AND INCRIMINATIONS AGAINST THE MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS WITHOUT ANY LEGITIMATE CLAIMS, HAVE BECOME THE CONCERN OF MANY OF THE MEMBERS, AND IT HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE MINISTERS TO CONTINUE WORK HAD THEY NOT BEEN PATIENT AND KEEN ON SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS. ALSO, THE CRUCIAL AND CRITICAL CONDITIONS WHICH OUR AREA AND THE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL ARE PASSING THROUGH REQUIRE QUICK DECISIONS ON MANY SENSITIVE MATTERS, AND ISSUANCE OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE SECURITY AND ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY, AND SINCE COOPERATION IS ALMOST LACKING BETWEEN THE TWO AUTHORITIES AND IN VIEW OF OUR PERPETUAL ENTHUSIASM IN THE INTEREST OF THE FATHERLAND AND THE CITIZENS UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, I PRESENT TO YOUR HIGHNESS MY RESIGNATION AND THE RESIGNATIONS OF MY COLLEAGUES THE MINISTERS, PUTTING THE MATTER IN YOUR HIGHNESS' HANDS TO TREAT WITH YOUR BROAD WISDOM. UNQUOTE.

B. AMIR'S SPEECH EXPLAINING ACTION: QUOTE: I AM TALKING TO YOU TODAY WITH PAIN SQUEEZING MY HEART AND GRIEF FILLING MY SOUL AT THE DETERIORATING CONDITIONS IN OUR DEAR COUNTRY WHICH HAVE REACHED AN EXTENT THAT I NEVER AT ANY MOMENT THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD REACH. UNFORTUNATELY THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED AND ALL OF US, MEN, WOMEN, OLD AND YOUNG ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT; WE LED OURSELVES TO THIS PAINFUL SITUATION. WE AND YOU HAVE BEEN PATIENT FOR A LONG TIME; WE AND YOU HAVE ENDURED MUCH, WITH THE HOPE THAT CONDITIONS WOULD CHANGE, RIGHT PREVAIL AND REASON RETURN, BUT MATTERS HAVE BECOME WORSE DAY AFTER DAY UNTIL WE HAVE ALMOST REACHED A DEADEND. IT WAS IN THE NAME OF THE CONSTITUTION THAT WE HAVE REACHED THAT POINT, THAT CONSTITUTION WHICH WAS ISSUED TO SAFEGUARD THE UNITY AND STABILITY OF THE FATHERLAND AND TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY FOR THIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE, BUT SOUND DEMOCRACY IS FAR FROM WHAT IS HAPPENING, AND UNITY AND STABILITY HAVE FACED AND ARE FACING SHOCKS.

"SONS,

"WE ALL OF US DID NOT TAKE A FIRM AND GUARDED STAND TOWARDS WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE AS THE MATTERS DEVELOPED TO SUCH A POINT THAT GOK ONLY KNOWS ITS EXTENT. SINCE I HAVE

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BEEN AT THE HEAD OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS GOOD AND LOYAL COUNTRY, AND I HAVE TAKEN AN OATH NEVER TO DEPART FROM TO PROTECT IT FROM ANYTHING THAT THREATENS ITS EXISTENCE, AND INTEGRITY AND STABILITY, AND SINCE I FEEL THAT I AM YOUR FATHER AND HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY FOR YOU, I FIND MYSELF OBLIGED, IN THESE CRITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, TO ISSUE AN ORDER TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO AVOID THE SITUATION

WE HAVE ARRIVED AT UNDER THE CONSITUTIONMF NOBEHBER 11,
1962.

"SONS,

"WE ALL DEEPLY BELIEVE IN SOUND DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM BECAUSE
THEY SPRING FROM OUR SOULS AND ON WHICH OUR GENERATIONS
GREW UP, AND IN ORDER TO LOSE FOR EVER OUR DEMOCRACY OF
WHICH WE ARE PROUD, WE HAVE ISSUED THE ABOVE MENTIONED
ORDER IN ORDER THAT FREEDOM WILL CONTINUE IN OUR COUNTRY,
BETTER ESTABLISHED AND MORE STABILIZED, SO THAT OUR PEOPLE
WILL ENJOY ITS LIGHT AND OUR SONS WILL LOOK FORWARD WITH
CONFIDENCE TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

"SONS,

"THIS FATHERLAND IS ENTRUSTED TO YOU, AND UNDER THESE
DECISIVE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HISTORY OF OUR NOBLE PEOPLE
I CHARGE YOU WITH YOUR TRUST, AND I CALL UPON YOU TO
PROTECT OUR FATHERLAND KUWAIT, THE SYMBOL OF DIGNITY AND
SOURCE OF GOOD, FROM ANY HARM.

"SONS,

"SINCE OUR HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR DEAR PEOPLE BINDS
US, SINCE GOD HAS GRANTED US MANY OF HIS BLESSINGS, TO
ACHIEVE FOR THEM A FREE AND DECENT LIFE AND TO PROVIDE
MEANS OF REFORM IN ALL FIELDS, AND REQUIRES US ALL TO
SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY AND STABILITY OF THE FATHERLAND,
AND CALLS UPON US TO PROTECT THEM FROM EXPLOITERS AND
OFFENDERS, WE THEREFORE, HAVE ISSUED AN ORDER TO REVISE
THE CONSTITUTION AND A COMMITTEE WILL BE FORMED OF EXPERIENCED
AND JUDICIOUS MEN TO CARRY OUT THAT TASK, AND WE SHALL
SUBMIT, WITH GOD'S WILL, TO THE ELECTORS, THE FRAFT REVISION
OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR REFERENDUM OR TO SUBMIT IT TO THE
NEXT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL, WITHIN A PERIOD NOT
EXCEEDING FOUR YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE ISSUANCE OF
THIS ORDER. UNQUOTE.

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

OMB-01 EB-07 /088 W

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P 301355Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6110

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ARTICLE 3)

C. AMIRI ORDER TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION

QUOTE: WE SABAH AL-SALEM AL-SABAH, THE AMIR OF KUWAIT, AFTER PERUSAL OF THE CONSITUTION OF KUWAIT ISSUED ON 11 NOVEMBER 1962, AND SINCE IT WAS THE DEAREST ASPIRATION TO DRAW UP A CONSTITUTION FOR THE COUNTRY BASED ON DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATIONS COMPATIBLE WITH THE TRADITIONS OF THIS DEAR PEOPLE AND RESPONSIVE TO ITS ASPIRATIONS AND NOBILITY, SET OUR GREAT HOPES UPON THE ISSUING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF 1962, SEEKING A BETTER FUTURE FOR THIS GOOD PEOPLE, IN WHICH THE CITIZENS WOULD ENJOY MORE PROSPERITY, FREEDOM, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE, AND TO FIX FIRMLY THE DIGNITY AND THE CONCERN FOR THE INTERESTS OF KUWAIT AND CONSULTATION IN GOVERNMENT, INNATE IN OUR SONS, SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY AND STABILITY OF THE FATHERLAND. HOWEVER, NOW THAT ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE HOPES THAT WERE RAISED UPON ITS ISSUANCE, HAVE NOT BEEN REALIZED. DEMOCRACY WAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, MOST OF THE LEGISLATION HAS BEEN FROZEN, THE CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN USED AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE PERSONAL GAINS, AND NO EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR CONSTRUCTION BUT FOR DESTRUCTION, FOR DELAYING, FOR INSTIGATING RANCOR AND FOR MISLEADING THE PEOPLE, AND THE CITIZEN HAS ONLY DEEP PAIN OVER THIS STRUGGLE, WHICH DID NOT REALIZE ANY OF HIS HOPES OR FULFILL UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY OF HIS NEEDS.

"DESPITE OUR KEENNESS ON ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY, WHICH HAS OBLIGED US TO BE PATIENT ABOUT THE MISTAKES ANAT TOOK PLACE AND THE HAMPERING OF REFORMS, HOPING THAT REASON WILL RETURN TO THOSE WHO ABUSED THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND EXPECTING THAT THEIR CONSCIENCE WOULD AWAKE AND PUT PUBLIC INTEREST ABOVE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS, THE SITUATION HAS BECOME WORSE WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME. THEREFORE, WE HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

"ARTICLE 1 - THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 56 PARAGRAPH 3, 107, 174, AND 181 OF THE CONSTITUTION ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 11, 1962 SHALL BE SUSPENDED.

"ARTICLE 2 - THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SHALL BE DISSOLVED AND THE AMIR AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HALL ASSUME THE FUNCTIONS VESTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

"ARTICLE 3 - THE LAWS SHALL BE ISSUED BY AMIRI DECREE, AND

MAY WHEN NECESSARY BE ISSUED BY AMIRI ORDERS.

"ARTICLE 4 - A DECREE SHALL BE ISSUED TO FORM A COMMITTEE OF EXPERIENCED AND JUDICIOUS PERSONS TO CONSIDER REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DEFECTS SHOWN BY PRACTICAL APPLICATION AND PROVIDE SOUND DEMOCRATIC RULE, AND TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY AND STABILITY OF THE FATHERLAND, PROVIDE THAT THE REVISION BE IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF OUR ISLAMIC SHARI'AH AND IS DRAWN FROM OUR NOBEL KUWAITI ARAB TRADITIONS.

"ARTICLE 5 - THE COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION SHALL COMPLETE ITS WORK WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE FORMATION AND SHALL SUBMIT TO US ITS PROPOSALS AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE DRAFT REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE FOR REFERENDUM, OR TO THE NEXT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL, WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING FOUR YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE ISSUANCE OF THIS ORDER.

"ARTICLE 6 - THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTERS, EACH WITHIN HIS OWN JURISDICTION, SHALL IMPLEMENT THIS ORDER, WHICH SHALL HAVE EFFECT AS OF THE DATE IT IS ISSUED AND SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE. UNQUOTE.

D. AMIRI ORDER AMENDING PRESS LAW (KUWAIT TIMES TRANSLATION):
QUOTE: A NEW ARTICLE NO. 35 TO BE ADDED TO THE LAW. IT STIPULATES, WITHOUT VIOLATING ANY OF THE PENALTIES STIPULATED
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IN THIS LAW OR ANY OTHER LAW, THAT IT IS PERMISSIBLE THROUGH A DECREE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO SUSPEND ANY NEWSPAPER FOR A PERIOD NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS OR TO CANCEL ITS LICENCE IF IT IS PROVED THAT IT SERVES INTERESTS OF A FOREIGN STATE OR CORPORATION OR IF ITS POLICY CLASHES WITH THE NATIONAL INTEREST OR IF IT APPEARS THAT IT HAS RECEIVED AN ASSISTANCE, AN AID OR INTEREST IN WHATEVER FORM OR REASON OR UNDER ANY PRETEXT OR NAME FROM ANY FOREIGN STATE OR QUARTER WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE INFORMATION MINISTRY.

"IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES, PUBLICATION OF THE NEWSPAPER COULD BE SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF NOT EXCEEDING THREE MONTHS BY A DECREE FROM THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION.

"ANY NEWSPAPER IS NOT PERMITTED TO PUBLISH ANY ADVERTISEMENT OR STATEMENT FROM FOREIGN STATE OR AUTHORITY WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE INFORMATION MINISTRY.

"APPEALS AGAINST THE ORDER OF SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION OR HALT OF PUBLICATION IS ALLOWED WITHIN TWO WEEKS FROM THE DATE OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE ORDER. UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, TEXT, LAW, CENSORSHIP, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, THE PRESS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUWAIT04140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-1140
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976087/aaaaafwa.tel
Line Count: 273
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 4127, 76 KUWAIT 4022
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: harterdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ReddocGW>; RELEASED <11 JAN 2005 by harterdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by harterdg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXTS OF KUWAITI DOCUMENTS: RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER; ADDRESS BY AMIR; AND DECREES ORDERING CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, AND AMENDING PRESS LAW
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006